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(54) Air purifying agent and air purifying method

(57) An air refreshing agent containing lithium chloride as an essential component and also at least one essential component selected from a group consisting of (A) water-soluble and/or water-swelling natural and/or synthetic high molecule compound excluding a water-soluble high molecule compound having a molecular weight of 1.0×10^7 or less when measured according to the intrinsic viscosity method and comprising acrylamide as a constituent monomer; (B) a mixture of any of zinc carbonate, zinc hydroxide, zinc gluconate, calcium lactate, calcium glycerinophosphate, calcium gluconate, ferrous nitrate, ferrous lactate, ferrous gluconate, copper gluconate, calcium chloride, a mixture of water-insoluble calcium salt and a gluconodelta lactone, and

further at least 2-amino-2-methyl-1-propanol salt and/or alkali metallic salt of acids such as phosphorus hydroxide, citric acid, lactic acid, DL-malic acid, fumaric acid, succinic acid, gluconic acid; (C) carbonate and/or bicarbonate of alkali metal; (D) acids such as citric acid, lactic acid, DL-malic acid, fumaric acid, succinic acid, gluconic acid, and phosphorus hydroxide; (E) activated carbon, and (F) anticeptics, germicide, antibiotics, mildew proofing agent, tickcide, pesticide, agriculture chemicals, flame retardant, and sulfuric sodium sulfates anhydride, said air refreshing agent in any of forms of an aqueous solution, gel, powder, or deposited on textile, woods, activated carbon or the like, and also an air refreshing method using the same.

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therein, and lithium chloride is contained as an essential component;

(2) the essential components comprises at least one selected from a group consisting of (A) water-soluble and/or water-swelling natural and/or synthetic high molecules compound excluding a water-soluble high molecule compound having a molecular weight less than $3.0 \times 10^6 \sim 9.9 \times 10^6$ when measured by the intrinsic viscosity method and comprising acrylamide as a constituent monomer; (B) a mixture of any of zinc carbonate, zinc hydroxide, zinc glucuronate, calcium lactate, calcium glycerolynate, calcium gluconate, ferrous nitrate, ferrous lactate, ferrous gluconate, copper gluconate, calcium chloride, a mixture of water insoluble calcium salt and a glucono- δ -lactone, and further at least a salt of 2-amino-2-methyl-1-propanol and/or alkali metal of acids such as hydroxy acid of phosphorus, citric acid, lactic acid, DL-malic acid, fumaric acid, succinic acid, gluconic acid; (C) carbonate and/or bicarbonate of alkali metal; (D) acids such as citric acid, lactic acid, DL-malic acid, fumaric acid, succinic acid, gluconic acid, and hydroxy acid of phosphorus; (E) activated carbon, and (F) anticeptics, germicide, antibiotics, mildew proofing agent, tickcide, pesticide, agricultural chemicals, flame retardant, and sodium sulfate anhydride,

(3) a amphoteric the high molecule compound described in (A) above having a molecular weight of 1.0×10^7 or more, comprising a (meta)acrylamide as a constituent monomer, and also having a molar ratio between anion groups and cation groups in a range from 30/70 to 70/30,

is contained therein;

(4) the essential component contains glyoxal and/or N-methylolpoly-acrylamide less than 3.0×10^6 or preferably less than 1.0×10^5 ;

(5) the high molecule compound in (A) is at least one of an extract from a high molecule compound of sea weeds such as gum agar, alginic acid, carrageenan, gliciopeltis glue, or the like, guar gum, gum Arabic, gum tragacanth, gum ghatti, chalaya gum, lowcuest bean gum, tamarind gum, xanthan gum, Kon'nyaku powder, casein, gelatin, pectin, hyaluronic acid, collagen, crosslinked, ethylenically unsaturated polymer and salt or derivative thereof;

(6) any of anticeptics, germicide, antibiotics, mildew proofing agent, tickcide, pesticide, agricultural chemicals, and flame retardant is at least one selected from a group consisting of quaternary ammonium salt of fatty acid, benzalconium chloride, benzenonium chloride, betaine based amphoteric active agent, halogenated organophosphorus compound, organophosphorus compound, piresroide-based compound, carbamate-based compound, and

(7) the chemical is prepared into at least one of (a) a form prepared by casting a solution obtained bydissolving and/or swelling the chemical in water and gelled; (b) a form prepared by putting a solid in a gas-permeable bag or a vessel; (c) a form prepared by pouring the solution into a vessel and/or a vessel containing textile and/or other water-absorbing material therein; (d) a form prepared by impregnating and/or spraying and/or coating the solution in, over, or on textile, other organic material, inorganic material, or other appropriate material and then drying it; and (e) a form to be used by sprinkling and/or spraying and/or coating in a building where any of anticeptics, germicide, antibiotics, mildew proofing agent, tickcide, pesticide, agricultural chemicals, flame retardant, and other useful but toxic agent is used, or for plants, soil, and cattle for which the above chemicals are used; and further the present invention relates to an air refreshing method using at least one of (a) a method in which a surface of the air refreshing agent is placed in a still space, (g) a method in which a surface of the air refreshing agent is placed in a space with an air flow generated by a fan, (h) a method in which air is contacted to or passed through a layer in which the air refreshing agent had been placed; (i) a method in which a solution containing the air refreshing agent therein is sprayed in and contacted to a space and/or over an endlessly rotating porous sheet;

(j) a method in which a solution containing the air refreshing agent therein is impregnated in an endlessly rotating porous sheet and then the sheet is pressed to contact the air refreshing agent to air; and (k) a method in which the air refreshing method is impregnated and/or coated on a porous substrate.

-15 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Configuration of the present invention is as described above, and essential components used to solve the problems described above, composition, usage, and effects of chemicals for the same are as described below.

(a) Solubility of lithium chloride in water at 20°C is around 44 %, but the chemicals used by the present invention can be used in various forms such as a liquid phase, a sprayed mist state, a gel, powder, granulated powder, molds, a coated film, a state in which the chemicals are sprayed over or dried on a substrate such as textile. An object of use of the air refreshing agent as described above is to prevent effects of the chemicals from being lost or becoming lower because of early drying, solidification, diffusion thereof to a space due to drying of the thereof caused under a low temperature of 0°C or below, a normal temperature, and a high temperature as experienced, for instance, in a fire and an air flow generated by a fan, and to remarkably improve a use factor of the chemicals. The effect for preventing drying is far more excellent as compared to that provided by lithium bromide, calcium chloride, glycerol, or water-absorbing high molecule compounds. The toxicityappears when a dose of 1.06 g is

5 injected into an LD50 mouse, so that the toxicity is far lower than that of lithium bromide and the agent little contaminates environment. This agent is very salty, so that it can be expected for a person having low discernment to be prevented from eating the agent by mistake, and moreover the boiling point of lithium chloride is 1360°C, so that diffusion of the agent under normal conditions for use never occurs during storage or use thereof, and further decomposition in an alkaline range and ion exchanging never occur unlike calcium chloride which has highly absorbent to moisture. An aqueous solution of the high molecule compound according to the present invention or 10 gel obtained by dissolving the compound in water or a gel may sometimes show high adhesiveness to a particular air contaminant, and the adhesiveness further increase when it contained lithium chloride a little or by up to around 15 %. The reason is that, even if lithium chloride is added to an aqueous solution of a high molecule compound, generally solidification does not occur, and for this reason the compound can be mixed in a wide range, and that, because of this moisture-absorbing effect, an interface between the agent and the air is always kept in a moistened state, drying and solidification of the chemicals is retarded or prevented, and effects of the chemicals are maintained 15 for a long period of time. For instance, if dense smoke of cigarette is intermittently contacted to a cast and gelled made of 2 % agar and 10% lithium chloride at 20°C in an air flow generated by a fan and having a flowing velocity of 2 m/sec, a large quantity of tar is absorbed onto a surface of the gel, and in several days the tar diffuses to the entire gel, which can visually be checked because the color changes to brown. This capability of absorbing tar continues for more than 6 months with a reduction ratio of weight kept in a range of 50 + 10 %, but if this experiment is executed only with a gel of agar, the gel is dried and solidified within around 7 days, and the capability is lost. If any of the various compounds as described or germicide or the like is added to the gel, the function to capture 20 and retain a large quantity of hazardous aerosol such as dust, pollen, suspended spores, various types of mal odorous substances, and poisonous gasses is given. Even if the same quantity of glycerol is used, the specific effect for prevention of drying can not be obtained.

25 (b) Even if, for instance, sodium bicarbonate or zinc carbonate is put into a non-woven fabric bag and it is placed in a space where a poisonous gas having acidity such as SO_x, NO_x, hydrogen sulfide, or propionic acid is present, or even if such a material as succinic acid or ferrous sulfate is similarly placed in a space where a poisonous gas having basicity such as hydrazine, ammonia, or organic amines is present or in the air flow as described in (a) above, the reaction velocity between the gases and the solid chemicals is very slow excluding a case where the humidity is very high, but if lithium chloride is mixed in the chemicals by 3 % or less, a neutralizing or a double 30 complex reaction is promoted, and the performance as an air refreshing agent is remarkably improved. Herein if any of the carbonates having basicity is mixed with a chemical having acidity such as an organic acid or a ferrous sulfide, further lithium chloride is added to the mixture, and the resultant mixture is placed in the same manner as described above in an air flow generated by a fan, a removal ratio for all the air-contaminating gases having both the acidity and basicity is remarkably improved as compared to a case where lithium chloride is not mixed. Also if 10 % succinic acid, 10 % zinc hydroxide, and 2 % lithium chloride are mixed in a 5 % suspension of activated 35 carbon from coconut palm shell with pH of 10.5, the air refreshing capacity for a wide ranged air-contaminants containing gasses having acidity, basicity, or non-ionic change is remarkably improved.

40 (c) As analogous compounds which is amphoteric and high molecule compounds containing (meta)acrylamide as one of the essential monomer of the present invention and has a molecular weight of 1.0×10^7 or more and in which a molar ratio of anion groups against cation groups is in a range from 30/70 to 70/30, there can be enumerated many types of combination of anionic and cationic monomers respectively, but it has empirically been impossible 45 to prepare such a high degree of polymerization by the copolymerizing method. To briefly describe the synthesizing method employed in the present invention, for the purpose to obtain a molecular weight of 1.0×10^7 or more and to obtain the remarkable air refreshing capability, the starting material should be an anionic copolymer having a molecular weight of 1.7×10^7 or more, and preferably of 2.0×10^7 or more. The molecular weight was measured by measuring the intrinsic viscosity according to the Mark-Houwink-Sakurada method, because it was considered that the method was suited for measurement of a molecular weight of the macro-molecules as described above. At first an aqueous solution of this substance with the concentration of 5 % or less, preferably of 4 % or less, and most preferably of around 2 % is accurately prepared, slowly agitated according to the known method so that any inter- and intra-molecular cross-linkage will not occur therein with formalin by the molar number in a range described 50 above added to the anionic group to have it methylolated and then dimethylamine added to the methylolated anionic poly(meta) acrylamide to have it dimethylaminomethylated, thus a amphotERICALLY charged terpolymer with high stability being obtained. The product with concentration of 2 % has high viscosity of, for instance, around 50,000 mN·sec (cps), and this aqueous solution is highly hard to dilute with water due to the effects by hydrogen bonds and electrostatically attracting force effecting in the molecular, but if water is added little by little and the mixture is agitated slowly, the solution can be diluted without the drop in molecular weight. Herein, if the molecular weight is 2.0×10^7 or more and a sum of the cationic group and the anionic group exceeds 40 molar %, the viscosity becomes too high because the inter- and intra-molecular electrostatically attracting force becomes too strong, but the electrostatically attracting force becomes lower if lithium chloride coexists there, and then it becomes easy to 55

manufacture, handle, and use the substance. A molar ratio between the anionic group and cationic group is set in a range from 30/70 to 70/30 according to a purpose of use thereof, and the aqueous solution with the molar ratio in a range from 40/60 to 60/40 forms around 20 % combined water when the aqueous solution is dried under a temperature of 110°C for 5 hours to form a film thereon, and the film dried under a room temperature is water-swelling but insoluble due to formation of an inter- and intra-molecular salt-formative reaction. However, if the molecular weight is less than 8×10^6 , the substance does not become insoluble to water like other charged high molecule, and is dissolved in water. As the molecular weight increases, the water-swelling characteristics is maintained, and the capability for absorbing air contaminants at a low concentration becomes substantially higher. It was found through observation of a photograph taken by a scanning electronic microscope and magnified by 5000 time or more that the film prepared from an aqueous solution of this amphoteric high molecule compound and dried under a room temperature or fine grains of the sprayed mist under a room temperature is porous. Main embodiments in a case where a small quantity of any aqueous soluble organic solvent with a boiling point lower than that of water such as ethyl alcohol is added thereto and the mixture is used as an air refreshing agent are as described below. {a} Prevention of environmental contamination by useful hazardous materials such as the agricultural chemicals as described above: For instance, when a 5 to around 200 ppm aqueous solution of this high molecular compound containing lithium chloride by around 1 % therein is sprayed over textile, woody materials, tatami (Japanese matting made from special grass), wallpaper containing hydrophilic filler, interior covering for building, zeolite, soil, plants, or other materials and is then dried to capsulize the useful hazardous substance within this high molecular compound because of its micro-capsulating effect so that the useful hazardous material will gradually be released, it is possible to prevent the useful hazardous substance from unnecessarily and rapidly leaking into a building or into the environment, to maintain its efficacy for a long period of time, to improve the capability to adhere to any dry object for processing, to give a directionality to the substance in spraying for the purpose to prevent diffusion of the substance by adjusting the high molecule compound to make a particle diameter of the mist larger, and to reduce leaching by rainwater or bedewing, thus a use rate of the useful hazardous substance being reduced, environmental contamination being prevented, and also physiological gas influence to workers, residents, and cattle being reduced. {b} For instance, if textile is treated with an aqueous solution containing 10 ppm lithium chloride, 5 ppm amphoteric high molecular compound having a molecular weight of 2.0×10^7 , and 700 ppm benzalconium and then the textile is dried and used for covering a patient lying on a bed when the patient evacuates the bowels, it is possible to prevent the mal odor or disease germs from spreading in the sickroom. Also it is possible to refresh air inhaled by a patient if the patient wears a mask made from Rayon or cotton treated as described above.

{c} Purification of air by using non-woven Rayon fabric with the chemical solution described in 2 above impregnated therein and then dried as a filter for an air conditioning machine.

{d} Refreshing of an exhaust gas realized by, for instance, refreshing an exhaust gas from a compost plant-containing mal odor, poisonous gasses, germs of harmful microorganisms, and fine particles each at a high concentration by continuous or intermittent spraying an aqueous solution of the high molecule compound as described in 2 above, yet not containing germicide therein so that the diameter of the mist will be in a range from 10 to $30 \mu\text{m}$ onto a surface of an endless belt made of textile and having high strength, said endless belt incorporated in a fan, to let an air flow contact the belt, and then by discharging the liquified solution into a sewage system purificatory cistern or burning the discharged liquid.

{e} Refreshing of air in a space in which air contaminants are present such as a lavatory, a sickroom, or a smoking room applied by injecting an aqueous solution containing the amphoteric high molecule compound according to the present invention and having a molecular weight of 2.3×10^7 by 3 ppm and lithium chloride by 1 ppm from a pressure-resistant aerosol spray made of aluminium with LPG or dimethyl ether sealed therein as a propellant or by injecting the aqueous solution without any propelling agent from a plastic spray pump.

{f} Refreshing of air in a burning room during a fire by injecting in a mist state an aqueous solution containing the amphoteric high molecular compound having a molecular weight of 2.3×10^7 by 3 ppm, lithium chloride by 10 ppm, and a fire-proof agent such as ammonium bromide/ or ammonium phosphate by totally 50 ppm in a burning room in an early stage of a fire to suppress the smoke and retard flashover.

{g} Refreshing of air in a room to reduce a concentration of hazardous volatile organic compound easily emitted in a newly built house or building: For instance, by spraying a sufficient quantity of an aqueous solution containing the amphoteric high molecule compound according to the present invention by 10 ppm and lithium chloride by 2 ppm over carpet, "tatami", or a sofa and then drying the solution, or by coating the aqueous solution described above over the entire surface of plywood plate in which urea resin is used as an adhesive, it is possible to remarkably improve the reaction ratio with low concentration formaldehyde emitted thereof because the film contains moisture and this moisture works as a plasticizer for the high molecule compound film, so that generation of cracks in the film or separation thereof due to elongation or shrinkage of the film caused by the change of humidity can be prevented. Further the above purpose can be achieved putting the activated carbon in (i) above and the cast and

gelled type of chemical describe in (e) above in a small bag made of unwoven cloth and placing the bag in a confined residence or in a fan with a battery-driven propeller fan attached thereto and continuously driving the fan.
 5 (h) Refreshing of air realized by pouring a useful hazardous substance such as germicide and the amphoteric high molecule compound having a density of 0.2 % and a molecular weight of 2.4×10^7 into a plastic vessel with sponge placed therein, placing the vessel in a sickroom or a compost plant, and continuously sending wind to the vessel.

(d) An aqueous solution of the high molecule compound according to the present invention and containing lithium chloride therein, particularly the aqueous solution with a positive activator such as aliphatic tetra-ammonium salt, benzalconium chloride, or benzenonium chloride each amphotERICALLY chargeable, having a molecular weight of 1. 0 $\times 10^7$ or more, at a low concentration for instance in a range from 10 to 50 ppm as a solid base, and with a pH value of around 10.5, or at a low concentration of around 0.2 % as a solid base, or a betaine type of amphoteric surfactant dissolved therein shows a strong sterilizing effect or a germ-suppressing effect to harmful microorganisms such as many pathogenic bacteria, bacteria causing putrefaction, or molds. The biological mechanism has not been clarified yet, and it can be presumed that the capability of lithium chloride to capture and maintain moisture improves a bacteria capture ratio. With the treatment as described above, it is possible to obtain an additive to a liquid used when a cast and gelled product or a solution is poured into a vessel together with textile or other water-absorbing material, and also to obtain filter excellent in sterilizing capability, deodorizing capability, and capability for capturing fine dust by impregnating the aqueous solution in water-absorbing woven cloth or non-woven cloth and then during the cloth. As a useful hazardous substance such as a tickcide preparation, a pesticide preparation, or agriculture chemicals, almost all of commercially available products can be used for the purpose according to the present invention. The representative examples include, but not limited to organophosphorus-based chlorpyriphos (CAS No. 2921-88-21), ECP (CAS No. 97-17-6), EPN (CAS No. 2104 64-5), ESP (CAS No. 2674 - 91 - 1), MEP (CAS No. 12214 - 5), carbamate-based MIPC (CAS No. 2631 - 40 4), MPMC (CAS No. 2425 - 10 - 7), MTMC (CAS No. 1129 - 41 - 5), NAC (CAS No. 63 - 25 - 2), silver powder or any compound thereof, and a mixture thereof.

(c) Glyoxal and N-methylolated acrylamide molecule weight less than 3×10^6 , probably less than 1×10^5 , which emit formaldehyde has a high deodorizing effect, but has also toxicity, so it is difficult to use these as a raw material for household products. However, of the high molecule compounds described above, a polyacrylamide-based high molecule compound having a molecular weight of 1.7×10^7 or more is used together, the poisonous substances are efficiently enclosed within the high molecule due to moisture maintained therein, so that the two substances can be used safely.

(f) Further even if glyoxal or N-methylolated polyacrylamide is not used, by using the water-soluble calcium salts listed in (c) of Claim 1, as calcium hydroxide is not separated under pH of 9 or less, so that it is effective for deodorizing hydrogen sulfide, melcaptans, or lower aliphatic acid.

(g) Also in a case where at least one of zinc carbonate, zinc hydroxide, calcium salt, ferrous salt, hydroxy acids of phosphorus, acids, alkali metal carbonate or alkali metal bicarbonate, and activated carbon is included and pH is adjusted to an appropriate range, it is possible to give the capability for specifically capturing a specific poisonous gas by the strong reactivity and buffering capability of these chemicals.

(h) Many types of hazardous aerosols such as soot, smoke of cigarette, fine particulate of asbestos, dust, pollen, mine powder, or oil droplets in a kitchen are easily diffused by a repelling force generated from positive or negative charge specific to each substance in a space and hardly precipitate by gravity, if these materials contact the chemical of the present invention and is electrostatically neutralized with its diffusing force lost, and also when a low concentration aqueous-solution of the various types of polymers as described above or a gel thereof is used, the concentration rapidly increases because of the adhesion effect with the precipitating velocity acceleratedly increased, so that the materials are easily captured. By using a surfactant, the effects as described above can further be improved.

(i) Different from the conventional technology the chemical according to the present invention contains moisture which is hardly evaporated, so that the surface is liquidous, bedewed, or fully moistened, and for this reason not only mal odorous substance in the molecular state and hazardous gasses, but also harmful aerosols such as dust and microorganisms are well absorbed, which enhances the effect of the chemical formulated therein.

(j) In a case where the germicide as described above is not used, anticeptics and mildew proofing agent are required, but for the purpose as intended in the present invention, it is desirable to use any of 10 to 70 % ethyl alcohol, alkali salt of sorbic acid, paraben, alkali salt of benzoic acid, alkyl ester of p-oxybenzoic acid (Number of carbon atoms in the alkyl group is 2 to 4), anddhydroacetate or a salt thereof.

(k) Although many types of tickcide, pesticide, and agriculture chemicals currently available in the market are used after the toxicity is carefully checked and used in such forms as solution, emulsion, or powder, the following advantages can be obtained when any of the chemicals is mixed in the formulation according to the present invention and the mixture is used in a liquid state.

(l) When injecting agriculture chemicals to plants or pesticide for termite over soil or partition walls or structural

components of woody buildings, if any of the chemicals is mixed with the chemical according to the present invention and a concentration of the high molecular compound is adjusted to a level a little higher than the limit, when the mixture is sprayed with a spray gun, mist having a large particle diameter of around 100 μm is generated, and under such conditions the agricultural chemicals or other are not dispersed into the air with the increased ratio of deposition to the object material, so that it is possible to prevent or reduce environmental contamination and inhalation of the chemicals by workers, and also it is possible to reduce a quantity of hazardous gasses resulted after use thereof. Also by selecting a high molecular compound, the level of the water resistance after drying, so that also a period of efficacy after its use can be designed beforehand. Also it is possible to decide the water content to make it easier to deposit on woody materials or trees for capsulized agriculture chemicals or other substances within the high molecular compound according to the present invention to deposit on woody materials or trees.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE EMBODIMENTS

15 Next description is made for embodiments and examples for reference of the present invention.

EXAMPLE1 AND REFERENCE 1-2

20 A 15cm x 15cm sized board of 3-ply lauan based plywood of 2.5 mm thick, bonded with an urea resin (Reference 1), the same board both-side coated at the coverage rate of 60 g/m for each side by a spongy roller with an aqueous-solution containing 50ppm as solid of an amphoteric copolymer (which is described as Copolymer A hereinafter) prepared through a Mannich reaction (i.e. the same molar ratio of dimethylaminomethylation as the following acrylic acid) to an anionic copolymer of molecular weight of 1.7×10^7 and the consistuent monomers, acrylamide/acrylic acid, being 85/15 on molar basis, and 2g per litre of potassium sorbate (Reference 2), and another same board coated in the same 25 way with an solution containing 2g/litre of lithium chloride (Example 1) were dried at 60°C for 15 minutes in an oven and cooled to room temperature respectively. Each board was then put separately into a nylon coated polyethylene bag which has a valve. Each bag was heat-sealed, and then five litres of fresh air of 87% R.H. at 20°C was pumped into each bag. After each bag was allowed to stand at 35°C for 8 hours, the formaldehyde content in each bag was as follows when measured by the gas-detector tube method.

30 Reference 1 : 12ppm (by volume)

Reference 2 : 1.6ppm

Example 1 : Not detected (which is described as N.D. hereinafter)

35 EXAMPLES 2 to 4 and REFERENCE 3 to 4

40 Each component of the formulation as shown in Table 1 (Unit: g) was put in a glass beaker, then ion-exchanged water was added thereto to the total weight of 1 kg, the mixture was heated up to 80°C for dissolving, and after confirming that each component had become clear, each 100g solution was casted into 10 plastic cups respectively each having size of 43 mm high, 71 mm upper diameter, 64 mm bottom diameter, and then gelled after allowing to cool at 30±3°C for 12 hours in a room not having been sterilized without the cover on each vessel after it was confirmed that all preparation had been solidified into light yellowish transparent or semi-transparent gel, the cups were kept for 30 days, and then the tests were conducted under the conditions shown in Table 1.

45 Table 1

EXAMPLE AND REFERENCE	EXA. 2	EXA. 3	REF. 3	EXA. 4	REF. 4
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REFERENCE nos. (Blended components)					
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Agar powder for foods	20	20	20	20	20
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	Copolymer A (*1)	0.4	0.4	0.4	-	-
5	Xanthan gum	-	-	-	5	5
	Lithium chloride	50	100	-	100	-
10	Calcium lactate	-	-	-	20	20
	40% glyoxal	30	-	30	-	-
15	NMAM (*2)	-	12	-	-	-
	Potassium monohydrogen phosphate	1	1	1	-	-
20	Potassium dihydrogen phosphate	-	-	-	1	1
	1% sodium hydroxide	3	3	3	10	10
25	Potassium sorbate	3	3	3	3	-
	pH before gelled	5.5	5.5	5.5	9.5	9.5
30	(Mildew resistance test)					
	Mildew generated in 5 days	None	None	None	None	Gene- rated
35	Mildew generated in 6 days	None	None	None	None	Same as above
	(Resistance to drying) (*3)					
40	No wind in 6 months	40%	50%	1%	51%	1%
	Number of days up to equilibrium	150	150	110	150	120
45	Continuous blowing in 5 days	33%	57%	5%	58%	2%
	Continuous blowing in 15 days	12%	57%	1%	57%	1%
50	Continuous blowing in one month	8%	44%	1%	45%	1%
	Number of days up to equilibrium	10	7	6	7	7
55	(Deodorizing effect by gas-detector)					
	Concentration: ppm (*4)					

5	Ammonia: in 5 min.	50	50	50	50	50
	in 1 hr.	5	5	5	28	28
	in 6 hr.	0.5	0.5	0.5	8	9
	in 12 hr.				3	3
10		N. D.	"	"		
	Trimethyl amine in 5 min	7	7	7	7	7
	amine in 4 hr	N. D.	N. D.	N. D.	2	2
15	Hydrogen sulfide in 5 min	30	30	30	30	30
	sulfide in 4 hr	1.0	2.2	1.9	1.4	1.4
	in 12 hr		N. D.	N. D.	N. D.	0.1
20	Methyl- melcaptan in 5 min	15	15	15	15	15
	in 6 hr	3.3	3.0	4.0	2.0	3.2
	in 12 hr	0.1	0.1	0.1	N. D.	
25	Folm- aldehyde in 5 min	9	9	9	9	9
	in 6 hr	0.3	0.5	1.6	7	7
	in 12 hr	N. D.	N. D.	N. D.	6	6
30	Isovaleric acid in 5 min	2	2	2	2	2
	in 12 hr	1.5	1.5	1.5	N. D.	N. D.
	(Same as above, sensor method)					
35	(#5) Unit: %					
	Odor of in 2 hr	7	7	26	33	33
	Cigaret smoke in 4 hr	5	6	33	12	15
40	Odor of cat's urine in 4 hr	10	10	10	6	6

45 (45) (1) Expressed as converted to a solid phase of the copolymer A in EXAMPLE 1. The concentration was 0.2 %, and this solution was used at a rate of 200 g/l.

(#2)

50 A 10% aqueous solution of N-methylol-acryamide prepared by methyolating an aqueous solution of polyacrylamide having a molecular

5 prepared by molecular weight of 1.0×10^5 after adjusting the pH value to 10.5, and the rate of methylation was 10% on the total amide group contained therein. The value shown in the Table 1. was based on the solid.

10 (*3)

15 The resistance to drying was expressed by the percentage of moisture retention in a specified period of time. In the test under no wind, the sample without a cover was placed at a site not directly irradiated by sunlight in a room at 10 35°C and a humidity of 40 to 90%.

20 and the weight was measured twice a month for 6 months. The fan device used in the above tests had a chamber (a) for placing therein a gelled chemical, a casing (b) propeller fan in an having a rectangular form at a center of the top surface thereof the size of the room (a) was 120 mm x 180 mm x 45 mm with a 45 mm x 100 mm opening for putting in /out the chemical at a center of one side face, and also grooves for discharging air on around 30 % of the entire area of other three side faces. Size of the casing (b) was 105 mm x 105 mm x 27 mm, and a fan at the center thereof rates to take in air, and the air contact the gelled chemical put under it, and the passage rate of air was around 4 litres

35 per minutes.

35 (*4)

40 One piece of the same sample was put in a polyethylene bag having high air-tightness and a capacity of 5 litres, a valve for pumping in and out a sample gas for analyses was attached thereto, the bag was heat-sealed, an mal odorous gas with a known concentration was pumped in from another polyethylene bag with a diaphragm pump, and after a specified period of time the concentration of the gas was measured with the Kitagawas gas detector tube.

50 (*5)

55 One piece of sample of gelled chemical was put in the same bag as the above (*4), and strong cigarette smoke was filled in a 50 litre bag so as to pump in from a valve for each sample by 5 litre with a

diaphragm pump. As for the method of sampling the cigarette smoke, a diaphragm pump for sucking and a Y-shaped tube with an internal diameter of 8 mm were attached with a silicone rubber tube to a cock attached to a bag with smoke therein, a silicone rubber tube was attached to one edge of the Y-shaped tube, an ignited cigarette ("Piece" produced by Japan Tabacco Corp. CJC) was inserted there with another edge of the Y-shaped tube being kept open, and the diaphragm pump was driven intermittently once every 1 second. The cigarette was burnt by a half of the full length and then exchanged by a new one. An urine was sampled from a sexually excited male cat by a pet shop owner, and was a source of very strong mixed madiar. One ml of the urine sample with the cast and gelled sample was put in the same bag as in (*1) above, and a 5 litre fresh air was pumped in to from the valve. The sensor employed was SF225 based on a lipophilic and amphoteric two-molecular membrane having a quartz oscillator mechanism produced by Sogo Yakko Co., Japan. The type of oscillator was 151AJ. The condition of the test was 15% R.H. And the unit, Hz in the Table 1 indicates the relative concentration of the total air contaminants, when that of fresh air in this test was made to 0 as the standard. And each Hz more or less corresponds to the concentration of the air contaminants in the rate of nano-gram per litre in his tests.

EXAMPLE 5 AND 6

An aqueous solution containing 3ppm of sodium hyaluronate of which molecular weight was 3 million, 5 ppm of Copolymer A in Example 1 above, 1% of lithium chloride and 0.15% of benzalconium chloride (Example 5), and another solution containing the same components but the concentration of benzalconium chloride was 0.025% (Example 6) were adjusted to pH 11.0, by adding a slight quantity of 2-amino-2-methyl-1-propanol (described as AMP hereinafter) respectively, and then determination of the capability for sterilizing the eight germs described below and one germ causing putrefaction were conducted at Japan Food and Drug Safety Centre (a foundational juridical organization). In these testings, 5 ml of each liquid was put in a small test tube, 0.1 ml of a germ containing liquid was treated with each testing liquid, 1 needle hook of the sample was taken out after 15 sec, 30 sec, 1 min, 2 min, 5 min, 10 min, 30 min, 1 hr, and 2 hr respectively, and then the bacteria was incubated on the BHI liquid medium, while yeast and mold were incubated on a GP medium, and further cultivated for 48 hours at 35°C and then kept for 1 week under 27°C. The determination was done by checking whether any growth was observed or not by a microscope.

Name of the tested microorganism and growth	EXAMPLE 5 (Germ)	EXAMPLE 6 (Germ)
Staphylococcus aureus	None	None
Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA)	None	None

(continued)

	Name of the tested microorganism and growth	EXAMPLE 5 (Germ)	EXAMPLE 6 (Germ)
5	Escherichia	None	None
	Pseudomonas aecolicruginosa	None after 30 second	None after 15 minutes
10	Streptococcus faecalis	None	None
	Bacillus subtilis (Petrelative germ)	None	None
	(Yeast)		
	Candida albicans (Molds)	None	None
15	Aspergillus fumigatus	None	None
	Trichlophyton mentagrophytes	None	None

From a result of these tests, and taking into the data disclosed literatures, it can be considered that the capability of sterilizing effects for the bacteria are more excellent than those of benzalconium chloride alone at a low concentration, and these result showed that the chemical can be used in 4 types of usages according to the present invention, and especially the results of tests conducted in a cleaning plant showed that the preparation according to EXAMPLE 5 was extremely effective as a continuously sterilizing agent used for diapers, sheets, and cloths used by patients in hospitals, which may cause intra-hospital infection, when the materials are washed, dried, and maintained until the next use, or as a deodorizer against water-insoluble mal odorous materials substantially remaining in wasted water after treatment of the materials described above, and that consequently the preparation was extremely effective for preventing the contamination of air by spraying or damages to skin of workers or users due to the excessive use of germicides.

EXAMPLE 7

30 A solution containing 10ppm of sodium hyaluronate having a molecular weight of around 3.0×10^6 , 1 g of lithium chloride, 1 g of benzalconium chloride, 1 g of potassium dihydrogen phosphate, and sodium hydroxide in its total weight of 1 Kg with a pH of 8.2 (under 20°C) was impregnated in a stich-bonded type non-woven fabric based filter mainly made of rayon with the wet pickup to around 300 % by padder(mangls), and then it was dried for 7 minutes at 120°C. The unwoven cloth thus treated is suited to be used as a material for a layer of mask contacting a human face for deodorizing mixed mal odors and for capturing a hazardous aerosol or dust. pH of the above solution was 7.0 + 1.5

EXAMPLE 8 and Reference 5

40 Using an aqueous solution prepared by adjusting pH to 10.5 with AMP at 20°C of a solution containing 300ppm of the copolymer A in EXAMPLE 1 above, 10g of lithium chloride, 1g of potassium sorbate, and 1g of potassium dihydrogen phosphate in the total weight of 1 kg, the processing under the same conditions as those in EXAMPLE 7 was applied to the same non-woven fabric. (EXAMPLE 8)

45 In order to compare the capability for collecting suspended particulates of non-woven fabric without treatment, (Reference 5), the two types of non-woven fabric, one treated and not treated as described above, were adhered to a top surface of a funnel, and the funnel was used for sucking external air at a site with a heavy traffic volume with a diaphragm pump having the sucking capability of 15 l/min set thereunder. A result of visual check of surfaces of the two types of non-woven fabric after the test showed the difference between these fabric was clear in terms of collecting contaminants as soot which can be regarded as that contained in an exhaust gas from diesel engines or other types of fine particles. It was determined that the treated fabric has the capability for collecting the air contaminants equivalent to that of a high voltage electrostatic device currently popularized. It was also recognized that, when the non-woven fabric according to EXAMPLE 8 was attached to an air exhaust pipe (with a displacement of 2.5 m³) of a garbage composter for business use while driven, the malodor concentration was 200,000 as defined in the malodor measuring method by the Japanese Environment Protection Agency reduced to around only 15,000.

55 EXAMPLE 9

A stich-bonded non-woven fabric mainly consists of rayon having a weight of 120g/m² was padded by a mangle

roll with a liquid containing ten times by weight of each component than that of the formulation of the Reference 5, and the wet pickup was around 300 %, and then dried for 7 minutes at 120°C was well suited for uses as a material of sheets for disposable cloth or for sterilization as well as of a filter for air-conditioning in a working site where infection by microorganisms may occur.

5

EXAMPLE 10

A high viscosity aqueous solution containing 2g of xantan gum (Echo gum T produced by Dai Nippon Seiyaku Co.) 10 110g of lithium chloride, 3g of benzetonium chloride, and 2g of potassium sorbate having with the pH adjusted to 11.0 by adding AMP (Solution A) was put into plastic vessels according to EXAMPLE 2 to 4 after a round layered material made from non-woven fabric used in EXAMPLE 8 was put in for prevention of leakage, and the vessels were put in a fan having around 2 times larger size as compared to that used in EXAMPLE 3 and 4 together with the cast and gelled deodorizer used in EXAMPLE 3, and this set was placed in a nursing room of a hospital for aged people, where a ventilation test was performed continuously for 50 days, but in any case, because of the feature of this preparation 15 according to the present invention that evaporation of moisture was suppressed largely, it was observed that 44 % and 41 % of the test liquids remained, and also it was recognized by many nurses that mal odor as felt through the olfactory smell in the hospital remarkably reduced. It was observed that lithium chloride was segregated from the solution (A) and the color changed to dark, but presence or growth of any microorganism was not recognized in a result of observation of the solution with a microscope as well as in a result of incubation of this solution according to the methods 20 employed in EXAMPLE 5 and 6. From this fact, it was confirmed that microorganisms suspended in the air contacted to the solution A during this test period had been completely sterilized.

EXAMPLE 11&12 and REFERENCE 6

25 In a cylindrical steel can of 12 cm diameter 30 ml of toluene was put in and ignited. The site was enclosed by 4 sheets of vertically erected glass plate each having a size of 40 cm x 50 cm. When a large quantity of sout was generated, water was sprayed in the horizontal direction from a point 40 cm away from an upper edge of the glass plate so as to the particle diameters distribution becomes in a range from 10 to 50 μm . And the condition was photographed how the smokes was suppressed, but any remarkable effect for suppressing smoke was not observed. (30 Reference 6) The same test was conducted by using 2ppm solution of a copolymer B which has a molecular weight of 2.4×10^7 and similar to the copolymer A prepared by the method as described in EXAMPLE 1 but was different in that the carboxyl and the dimethylaminomethyl groups were 20 mole percent respectively 1 ppm of lithium chloride, and 0.1% potassium monohydrogen phosphate. In the experiment the combustion was maintained, but a clear effect for suppressing smoke was photogrpahed. (EXAMPLE 11) When additionally 2 % of ammonium bromide was added 35 to the liquid used in EXAMPLE 11, conducting the same experiment, it was recognized that not only the smoke was suppressed but also the combustion of toluene was extinguished. This result indicates the possibility of use of this chemical as a smoke and fire fighting agent.

40 (EXAMPLE 12)

EXPERIMENT 13 and Reference 7&8

Two pieces of each cigarette ignited were placed in array on an ash tray in a dark room with no wind so that two 45 flows of smoke would go up in parallel at least around 80 cm away from each other, and 2.1 g of water was sprayed for 2 seconds from a spray nozzle for a particle diameter distribution from 2 to 30 μm from a point around 50 cm above the point where the two smoke flows crosses each other, and also 40 cm away in the horizontal direction with the situation recorded by a video camera, but only slight disturbance was observed in around 40 seconds after start of spraying. (REFERENCE 7) In a case where the same experiment was done using an 1ppm aqueous solution containing the copolymer according to EXAMPLE 11, 1 ppm lithium chloride, sprayed mist started extinguishing the two flows of smoke in about 20 seconds after start of spraying, the effect was maintained for around 30 seconds, and during this 50 period of time the spray mist moved in various directions to show a typical Tyndall phenomenon, and the fact that the mists promoted precipitation of smoke was recorded by the video camera, and also the deodorizing effect was confirmed olfactory (EXAMPLE 13) In the experiment executed by using the copolymer C which was the same as copolymer A excluding the point that the molecular weight was 8×10^6 , the fact that Tyndall phenomenon was started in 35 seconds 55 after start of spraying was recorded, and although the effect was maintained for only around 20 seconds, the smoke suppressing and deodorizing effect was substantially lower during this time. (REFERENCE 8)

The air refreshing agent according to the present invention is manufactured by basically blending the base materials each having extremely low toxicity, and seldom causes a chemical reaction generating any hazardous substance, so

that almost all examples of the present invention are every safe. Also in a case where glyoxal or formaldehyde having the possibility to emit harmful gas or gasses in a step of solidification like the cast and gelled air refreshing agent or NMAM having the possibility to emit other types of volatile raw materials is used together, with the method according to the present invention, moisture is fully maintained and enclosed within a vessel.

5 In a case where this chemical is injected into a space so that the particle diameter will be in a range from 1 to 100 μm , it is possible to effectively remove various types of air contaminants including suspended particle each having a particle diameter of 100 μm or less through the mechanisms of acceleration of precipitation velocity due to the increase of the particle diameter with the injected mist deposited thereon, removal of electric charge which is a cause for repelling property of aerosol, or chemical or physical absorption. Also it is possible not only to efficiently achieve precipitation
10 and capsulization of hazardous aerosol such as smoke of cigarette or sulfuric acid mist, fine particle of asbestos, suspended particles in an exhaust gas from a diesel engine, pathogenic germs or spores thereof, all of which has been proved as harmful from a viewpoint of public health, but also to efficiently achieve sterilization, suppression, prevention of proliferation which may cause opportunistic infection. Also in a case where a useful poison such as a low molecular weight agriculture chemical and the mixture are sprayed over or coated on an object for treatment, the substance such
15 as the agriculture chemical is micro-capsulized with the capability for gradual release added thereto and the period of efficacy prolonged, and further the ratio of deposition onto an object for processing in use is improved, and also rapid diffusion into a space and leaching out the component due to rainfall or bedewing, and inhalation by workers can be prevented or reduced, which contributes to refreshing of air. Any component other than water does not evaporate from the chemical formed into a gel state in a vessel according to the present invention, and the chemical efficiently absorb
20 harmful aerosol chemically or physically from mal odorous materials and further is excellent in the resistance against drying, freezing, and wind, which makes it possible to provide a novel air refreshing system.

The conventional type of air refreshing technology has been developed under the initiative by companies in the fields of apparatus industry and electric equipment, so that the main stay in the technology has been depending on use of ozone with high toxicity, activated carbon with organic amines which can hardly be aborted or regenerated and
25 has a high toxicity deposited thereon, or the like, so that maintenance and management thereof are very difficult. Further in the apparatus based on the combustion method or scrubber method, the size is very large with large energy consumption. Feature of the present invention is not suited to large scale processing of air contaminants such as those in iron mills or plants for petrochemical industries, but can be applied to many small scale sites having the possibility that various types of air contaminants may be discharged without installing a large scale apparatus or system.

30 Further different from the masking method using aromatic chemicals which is at present the main technology in this field, relative advantages provided by the air refreshing method according to the present invention can scientifically be proved and are more persuasive for users, and it is possible to select and provide a chemical, a method, and a device suited to each user's site.

35 POSSIBILITY OF UTILIZATION FOR INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES

The air purifying agent and the air purifying method according to the present invention provides the possibility for efficiently removing contaminants including suspended particle having a diameter of 100 μm or less from mal odorous molecules having a diameter of 0.2 nm or more or poisonous gasses, and also provides an air refreshing agent with
40 improved capability for preventing diffusion of useful hazardous substances such as agriculture chemicals into a space as well as a high adhesiveness to objects for processing because of the micro-capsulizing mechanism, and also for reducing loss due to rainfall.

45 Claims

1. An air refreshing agent; wherein said agent does not contain a water-soluble high molecule compound having a molecular weight in a range from 3.0×10^6 ~ 9.9×10^5 or less when measured according to the intrinsic viscosity method and containing acrylamide as a constituent monomer and further contains lithium chloride as an essential component.
2. The air refreshing agent according to Claim 1; wherein the essential components comprises at least one selected from a group consisting of (A) water-soluble and/ or water-swelling natural and/ or synthetic high molecule compound excluding a water-soluble high molecule compound having a molecular weight in a range from 3.0×10^6 ~
50 9.9×10^5 or less when measured according to the intrinsic viscosity method and comprising acrylamide as a constituent monomer; (B) a mixture of any of zinc carbonate, zinc hydroxide, zinc glucuronate, calcium lactate, calcium glycerophosphate, calcium gluconate, ferrous nitrate, ferrous lactate, ferrous gluconate, copper gluconate, calcium chloride, a mixture of water-insoluble calcium salt and a gluconodelta lacton, and further at least 2-amino-

2-methyl-1-propanol salt and/or alkali metallic salt of acids such as hydroxy acids of phosphorus, citric acid, lactic acid, DL-malic acid, fumaric acid, succinic acid, gluconic acid; (C) carbonat and/or bicarbonate of alkali metal; (D) acids such as citric acid, lactic acid, DL-malic acid, fumaric acid, succinic acid, gluconic acid, and hydroxy acid of phosphorus; (E) activated carbon, and (F) anticeptics, germicide, antibiotics, mildew proofing agent, tickcide, pesticide, agricultural chemicals, flame retardant, and sodium sulfate anhydride.

5 3. The air refreshing agent according to Claim 1 or Claim 2; wherein the high molecule compound described in (A) contains at least one having a molecular weight of 1.0×10^7 or more, comprising a (meta)acrylamide as a constituent monomer, and also having a molar ratio between anion groups and cation groups in a range from 30/70 to 70/30, which is both positively and negatively chargeable.

10 4. The air refreshing agent according to any Claims 1 to 3; wherein the essential component contains glyoxal and/or molecular weight less than 3.0×10^6 of N-methylolpolyacrylamide;

15 5. The air refreshing agent according to any of Claims 1 to 4; wherein the high molecule compound in (A) is at least one of an extract from a high molecule compound of sea weeds such as gum agar, alginic acid, carrageenann, gleispeltisglue, or the like, guar gum, Arabic gum, tragacanith gum, ghatti gum, chalaya gum, lowcast bean gum, tamarind gum, xantane gum, Kon'nyaku powder, casein, gelatin, pectin, hyaluronic acid, collagen, crosslinked eshylenically unsaturated polymer and salt or derivative thereof.

20 6. The air refreshing agent according to any of Claims 1 to 5; wherein any of anticeptics, germicide, antibiotics, mildew proofing agent, tickcide, pesticide, agricultural chemicals, and flame retardant is at least one selected from a group consisting of quarternary ammonium salt of fatty acid, benzaronium chloride, benzenonium chloride, betaine type of amphoteric active agent, halogenated organophosphorus compound, organophosphorus compound, piresroide-based compound, carbamate-based compound.

25 7. An air refreshing agent; wherein the air refreshing agent according to Claim 1 is prepared into at least one of (a) a form prepared by casting a solution obtained by dissolving and/or swelling the chemical in water and gelatinating the solution; (b) a form prepared by putting a solid in a gas-permeable bag or a vessel; (c) a form prepared by pouring the solution into a vessel and/or a vessel containing textile and/or other water-absorbing material therein; (d) a form prepared by impregnating and/or spraying and/or coating the solution in, over, or on textile, other organic material, inorganic material, or other appropriate material and then drying it; and (e) a form to be used by diffusing and/or spraying and/or coating in a building where any of anticeptics, germicide, antibiotics, mildew-proofing agent, tickcide, pesticide, agricultural chemicals, flame retardant, and other hazardous agent is used, or for plants, soil, and cattle for which the above chemicals are used.

30 8. A method of refreshing air; wherein the air rub agent according to Claim 1 is used according to at least one of (a) a method in which a surface of the air refreshing agent is placed in a still space, (g) a method in which a surface of the air refreshing agent is placed in a space with an air flow generated by a fan, (h) a method in which air is contacted to or passed through a layer in which the air refreshing agent is present; (i) a method in which a solution containing the air refreshing agent therein is sprayed in and contacted to a space and/or over an endlessly rotating porous sheet; (j) a method in which a solution containing the air refreshing agent therein is impregnated in an endlessly rotating porous sheet and then the sheet is pressed to contact the air refreshing agent to air; and (k) a method in which the air refreshing method is impregnated and/or coated on a porous base material.

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DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.)
Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 009, no. 301 (C-316), 28 November 1985 & JP 60 139338 A (NITSUSHIN KAGAKU KK), 24 July 1985, * abstract *	1-8	A61L9/01
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A	DE 30 20 647 A (DAIKIN IND LTD) 11 December 1980 * claims *	1	
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Place of search THE HAGUE	Date of completion of the search 13 March 1997	Name ESPINOSA, M	
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document	
		1 : theory or principle underlying the invention 2 : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date 3 : document cited in the application 4 : document cited for other reasons 5 : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

